

P-421/CP-93-432 ORDER DENYING PETITION AND CLOSING DOCKET

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm
Tom Burton
Marshall Johnson
Cynthia A. Kitlinski
Dee Knaak

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for
Extended Area Service From the
Sandstone Exchange to the Mora
Exchange

ISSUE DATE: August 11, 1993

DOCKET NOS. P-421/CP-93-432

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 11, 1993, certain subscribers in the Sandstone exchange filed a petition for extended area service (EAS) to the Mora exchange.

On May 17, 1993, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) asked U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC), the telephone company serving the Sandstone exchange, to file traffic studies for the EAS route in question.

On June 25, 1993, USWC filed the requested traffic data for the months May 1992 through April 1993.

On July 13, 1993, the Department filed comments on USWC's traffic study.

On August 3, 1993, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

According to the extended area service (EAS) statute, the Commission must grant a petition to install EAS if 1) the petitioning exchange is contiguous to the petitioned exchange or local calling area, 2) at least 50 percent of the customers in the petitioning exchange make one or more calls per month to the petitioned exchange or local calling area, and 3) a majority of the customers in the petitioning exchange responding to a poll indicate that they favor its installation. Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 1 (a) (1992).

In processing EAS petitions, the Commission's threshold determinations are whether the petition meets the statute's adjacency and traffic requirements.

Adjacency

In this case, it is clear that the two exchanges are next to each other and therefore both petitions meet the adjacency requirement. See the exchange maps on file with the Department.

Traffic Requirement

However, according to traffic study filed by USWC, fewer than 50 percent of Sandstone's subscribers make one or more calls per month to the Mora exchange. Therefore, it is clear that the petition does not meet the statute's traffic requirement.

Commission Action

Accordingly, the Commission will deny the Sandstone petition and close this docket. Subscribers will be entitled to renew their requests for EAS after a two year period. Minn. Rules, Part 7815.1500.

ORDER

1. The petition for extended area service from the Sandstone exchange to the Mora exchange is hereby denied and the docket opened for that matter, Docket No. P-421/CP-93-432, is hereby closed.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)